(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the industry has seen a flurry of Merge and Acquisition (M&A) activities and if so the details thereof; and

(e) the package which Government propose to invest to revive them?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) As on 31.05.2005, 820 textile cases were registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) of which 44 cases have been declared no longer sick by the Board. As such the number of sick textile mills at present may be treated to be 776.

(b) Government has received no such proposal.

(c) Does not apply.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) For the revival of sick mills including the sick textile mills the Government has set up BIFR under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive ameliorative and remedial and other measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. BIFR appoints operating agencies for preparation of rehabilitaion proposals in respect of potentially viable units. The decision on rehabilitation is taken by BIFR based on its findings. Except for this arrangement Government has no package to revive the sick textile mills.

Textile exports

325. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian textile exports could not come up to expectations during the first six months of the quota free world regime;

(b) whether India remained a poor second with China far ahead;

(c) the comparative export figures of India, China and other textile exporting countries during the first two quarters of 2005 and the corresponding figures for 2004 and 2003; and

(d) what special steps were taken by Government to promote India's textile exports in the quota free export regime?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c): Indian textile exports had shown a decline in the initial three months of quota free regime i.e. January-March, 2005. According to the provisional DGCI&S data for January- March, 2005 the exports to textiles and clothing (including handicrafts, jute and coir) had amounted to Rs.14,857 crores during the period January- March, 2005 as compared to the exports of Rs. 19,178 crores during the corresponding period of 2004 showing a decline of 22.5%. However, as per the latest available DGCI&S provisional data there has been a positive growth of 13.7% in textile exports during the month of April, 2005 compared to April 2004. However, it is still early to judge India's performance in the post quota period as the trade is still in the transitory phase.

European Union (EU) and United States(US) account for more than 60% of India's textile exports. According to the World Trade Atlas data, the latest figures of EU/US imports of textiles and clothing items from India, China and certain other countries of the region have been as follows:

US imports

(Value in Million US$)

	Jan-May, 03	Jan-May, 04	Jan-May, 05
World	31501	32246	35884
India	1585	1627	2107
China	4474	5251	8402
Pakistan	843	967	1081
Bangladesh	793	701	872

EU-15 imports

(Value in Million US$)

	Jan-Mar, 03	Jan-Mar, 04	Jan-Mar, 05
World	37513	43190	43932
India	1269	1509	1693
China	3320	4069	5953
Pakistan	542	680	602
Bangladesh	795	1125	1124

(d) Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to promote India's textile exports in the international markets. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

(i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(ii) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing in existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.

(iii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres to give fillip to exports.

(iv) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

(v) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.

(vi) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competetive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

(vii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embelishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.

(viii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(ix) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

(x) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(xi) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

Legislation to protect consumers' interests

326. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering legislative intervention to protect the consumers' interests in the de-regulated textile -trade enviornment;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c)by when a Bill for the purpose is proposed to be brought forward in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is in the process of formulating a legislation, to *inter-alia*, protect the interests of the domestic textile industry and consumers by prescribing markings on domestically produced and imported textiles.

(c) The Government cannot state with certainty the time frame for finalization of the process for enactment of the said legislation. The matter is at the initial stage of the formulation and the proposal has not yet been placed before the Union Cabinet for approval.